



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRISON GUARDS AND INMATE INDICTED FOR BRIBERY AND SMUGGLING CONTRABAND INTO FEDERAL PRISON

Little Rock, AR - Bud Cummins, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas, announced today the indictment of Correctional Officer Celeste Akers, Correctional Officer Angela Davis, and federal inmate Trece Clark. The three were separately indicted by a Grand Jury for the Eastern District of Arkansas on September 7, 2005 on charges of violating Title 18, United States Code, Section 201, which prohibits the payment or receipt of bribes to or by federal officials.

Akers and Davis were employed as prison guards at the Federal Correctional Complex in Forrest City, Arkansas. Clark is an inmate at that same institution. The indictments allege that the bribes were received by the correctional officers in exchange for the officers smuggling contraband into a federal corrections facility. The indictment against Correctional Officer Akers charges her with smuggling both marijuana and cocaine into the facility for inmates. In addition, Correctional Officer Akers was charged with multiple counts of introducing contraband into a federal correctional facility, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1791, and one

count of making a materially false statement to an investigative agent, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001. If convicted, the defendants could face up to 15 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000 on each of the bribery charges.

“The investigation that led to these indictments is part of a large-scale effort to uncover and prosecute those persons who attempt to smuggle illegal substances and contraband into the Federal Prison in Forrest City, Arkansas,” stated Cummins. He added, “it is unfortunate that the criminal justice system suffers from corruption within its ranks, but we are making every effort to rid the system of that element.”

The cases are the result of investigations conducted by the Department of Justice, Office of Inspector General (DOJ-OIG). Assisting in the cases were investigators from the Forrest City Federal Correctional Complex.

An indictment is an allegation of criminal wrongdoing. A person so charged is presumed innocent unless and until they are found guilty in a court of law.

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